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To: Hospice Providers

Hospice Program Changes

Effective May 16, 2006 the following Administrative Code Rule changes will occur:

- 1) **Rule 560-X-51-.02(4)** Hospice Care Definitions - amended to clarify the election periods for hospice care.
- 2) **Rule 560-X-51-.03(3) (6) (7)** Provider Eligibility and Certification of Terminal Illness Requirements-amended to remove language which is no longer accurate and applicable to the administration of the program.
- 3) **Rule 560-X-51-.04** Recipient Eligibility - amended to clarify existing medical criteria for initial hospice certification and recertification*.
- 4) **Rule 560-X-51.05** Hospice Care-Election Procedures-amended to allow the hospice provider to use the Medicare election form to elect hospice for both Medicare and Medicaid when the recipient has dual eligibility. Providers now have the ability to report changes using the *Hospice Recipient Status Change* Form 165B instead of using the election form for dually eligible recipients. The Hospice Recipient Status Change Form 165B should also be used to report changes for Medicaid recipients after the initial election or recertification

For more information and to review the rule changes you may visit the Alabama Medicaid Agency website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov. If you have any additional questions or need further clarification, please contact Wanda Davis, at (334) 242-5018 or Nancy Headley at (334) 242-5684.

***Providers should thoroughly review the Medicaid Hospice Criteria and be aware that some of the hospice criteria are different for initial certification and recertification.**

May 1, 2006